

DEMOCRACY IN ACTION

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE INSTITUTE FOR A DEMOCRATIC ALTERNATIVE FOR SOUTH AFRICA
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Options debate gets under way

THE QUESTION facing South Africans was not whether negotiations over power sharing will eventually take place, that would inevitably happen. "The real question facing South Africa today is: Do we reach the negotiation table before war, thus preventing a war, or do we have to go there after a civil war?"

This was one of the important points made by Dr Alex Boraine, executive director of IDASA, in Durban this month when he formally launched the "Options for the Future" debate series on constitutional proposals for South Africa which are being hosted by the institute at forums and workshops throughout the country.

Dr Boraine said the South African state had the key to the process of negotiations, and the ANC was an important force in the negotiation process — whether its adversaries like it or not. IDASA, he pointed out, stood squarely in the arena of negotiation politics and wanted to urge people to "negotiate away from apartheid" towards a democratic society with real power sharing. It hoped to put across this message at the "options" workshops.

One of the speakers at the workshop, Prof Dawid van Wyk, echoed the sentiment expressed by Dr Boraine, saying that a need existed for a "massive educational process" to convince whites that they are needed and wanted in a "non-apartheid" South Africa.

The publication of a set of constitutional guidelines by the African National Congress last year presented South Africans of all convictions with yet another constitutional option for their future. This has also provided IDASA with an ideal opportunity to develop a debate around all available constitutional options for the future. The workshops will culminate in a conference on constitutional options in Johannesburg in May.

Some 200 people, representing a wide range of organisations including the

Natal Indian Congress, Inkatha Institute, the Democratic Party, Housewives League and the Durban Chamber of Commerce, attended the Durban forum and joined in the lively debate which followed the formal addresses.

Among the speakers who shared the platform with Dr Boraine at the launch-

Constitutional proposals for SA assessed in workshops around country

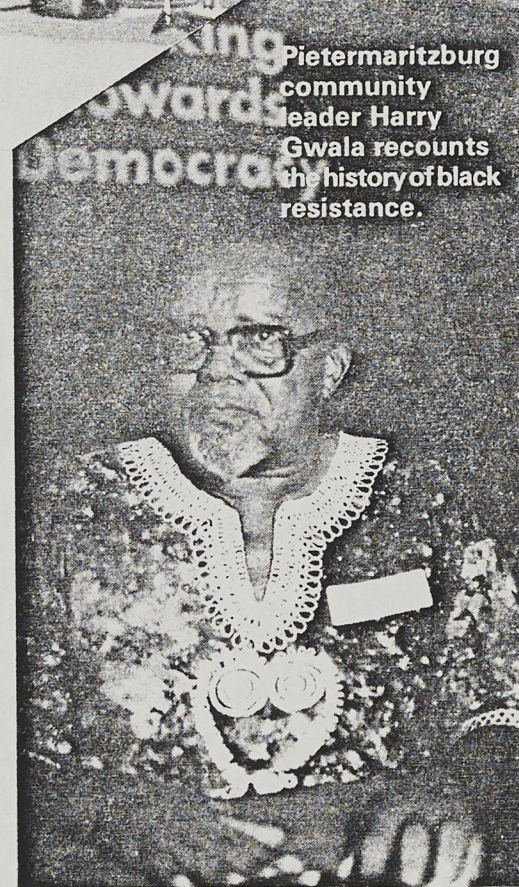


At the first constitutional options debate... Mr Harry Gwala, IDASA's Natal director Paul Graham, Prof Hugh Phillips and Dr Alex Boraine.

Call for nationwide campaign to convince whites they're wanted and needed in a 'non-apartheid' SA

ing event in Durban was Pietermaritzburg community leader Mr Harry Gwala, a former senior political prisoner who was released last year. Mr Gwala is a listed person and may not be quoted. Listening to his address, however, one realised again that the history of the black experience of Western democracy and Christian values in South Africa made their rejection of these values almost inevitable. The South African Act of 1909, for example, entrenched white privilege, and the 1913 Land Act robbed millions of black people of their land.

Prof Van Wyk, professor of constitutional law at Unisa and director of the Kwazulu Natal Indaba, said the time was



Pietermaritzburg community leader Harry Gwala recounts the history of black resistance.

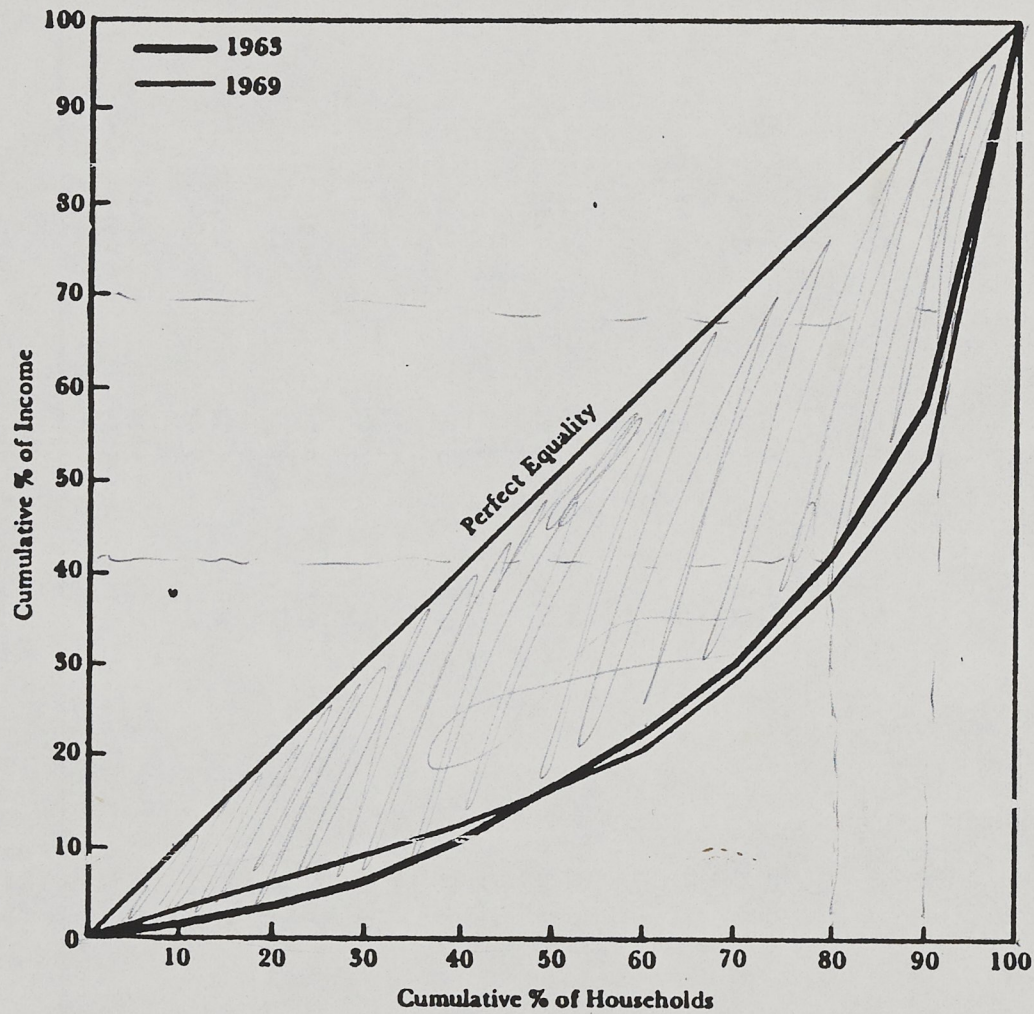
ripe like never before to change ideas and motivate people to become involved in things that influence their everyday lives.

He said the ANC's constitutional guide-

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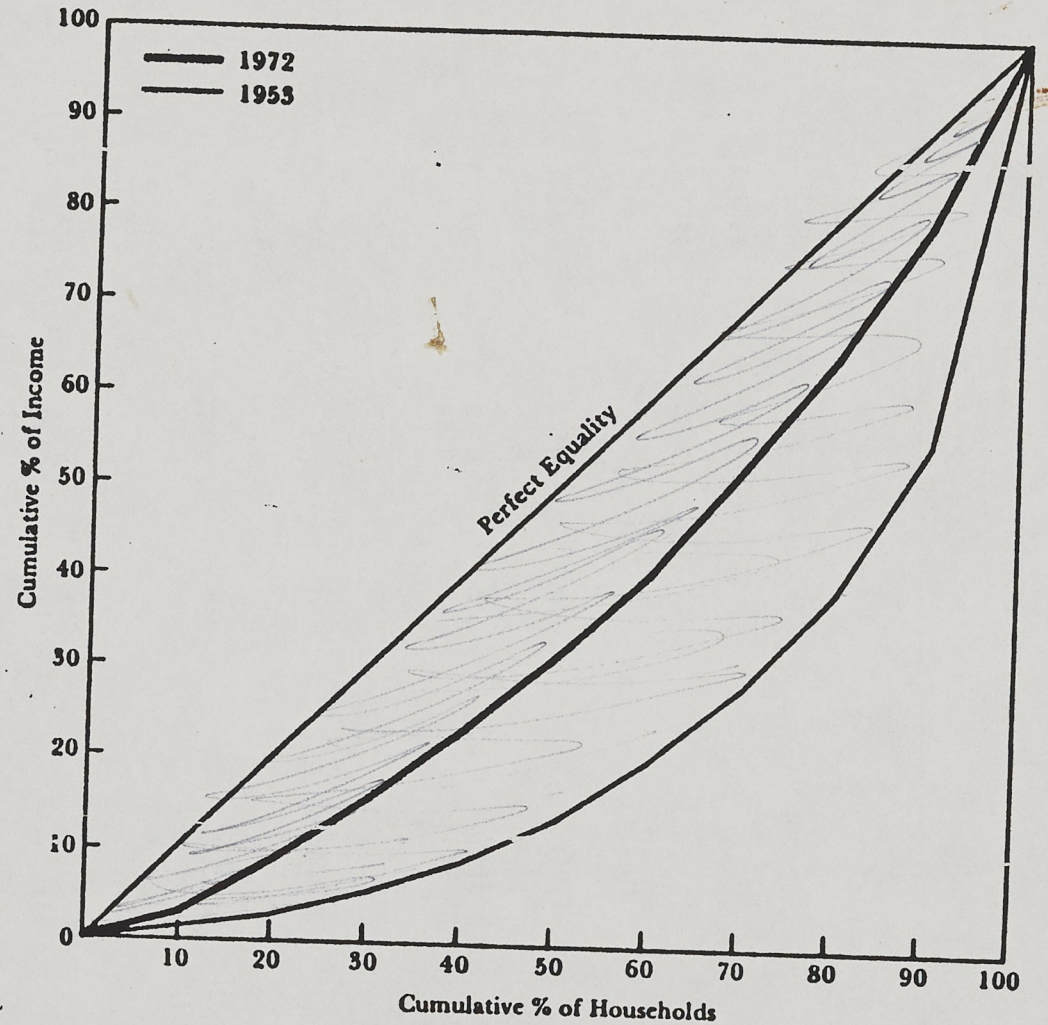
Figure XIII.5 Lorenz Curve and Gini Coefficient of Income Distribution in Mexico, 1963 and 1969



Source: Jain, *Size Distribution of Income*, p. 77.
 Note: Gini coefficient, 1963 = .5390; Gini coefficient, 1969 = .5827.

.53

Figure XIII.6 Lorenz Curve and Gini Coefficient of Income Distribution in Taiwan, 1953 and 1972



Source: Jain, *Size Distribution of Income*, pp. 108-109.
 Note: Gini coefficient, 1953 = .5762; Gini coefficient, 1972 = .2843.

Almond, G. Comparative Politics, 2nd edit.

SELECTED INCOME DISTRIBUTION DATA

Rank of Gini index Inequality	Country	Year	% of Income Going to		Ratio of top to bottom	Gini Index	Average Net Change in Gini Index per decade
			Top decile	Bottom decile			
1	Brazil	1960	49.1	1.2	40.9	.59	+.06
		1970	54.3	1.1	49.4	.65	
2	Peru	1961	49.6	0.9	55.1	.61	-.02
		1971	45.1	0.4	112.8	.59	
3	Mexico	1963	42.2	1.5	28.1	.55	+.05
		1969	48.8	2.0	24.4	.58	
4	Malaysia	1960	45.7	1.2	38.1	.57	-.05
		1970	41.1	1.2	34.3	.52	
5	Philippines	1961	40.5	2.0	20.3	.50	-.01
		1971	37.1	1.3	28.5	.49	
6	France	1956	34.3	.07	49.0	.48	+.07
		1962	37.2	.05	74.4	.52	
7	Guatemala	+1970	-	-	-	.48	-
8	Tanzania	1967	-	-	-	.48	-
9	Netherlands	1962	33.6	1.1	30.5	.44	+.02
		1967	33.0	1.0	33.0	.45	
10	Argentina	+1970	-	-	-	.45	-
11	El Salvador	+1970	-	-	-	.45	-
12	Japan	1971	30.6	0.5	61.2	.42	-
13	Italy	+1970	-	-	-	.40	-
14	West Germany	1970	29.1	2.2	13.2	.39	-
15	United States	1960	26.7	0.8	33.4	.39	0
		1972	28.1	0.8	35.1	.39	
16	Sweden	1963	28.5	1.3	21.9	.41	-.03
		1970	27.5	1.5	18.3	.39	
17	Pakistan	+1970	-	-	-	.38	-
18	Norway	1963	25.0	0.8	31.3	.37	-
19	Sri Lanka	1970	-	-	-	.37	-
20	South Korea	1970	-	-	-	.36	-
21	Yugoslavia	1968	25.3	2.3	11.0	.35	-
22	United Kingdom	1960	25.8	2.3	11.2	.35	-.01
		1968	23.9	2.3	10.4	.34	
23	Israel	1957	20.7	3.3	6.3	.25	+.11
		1969	27.0	1.3	20.8	.38	
24	Australia	+1970	-	-	-	.35	-
25	Canada	1965	24.0	2.3	10.4	.33	-
26	Taiwan	1964	-	-	-	.32	-
27	Hungary	1969	19.1	3.3	5.8	.24	-
28	East Germany	1970	16.9	4.0	4.2	.20	-